

ARRL Programs and Services Committee Minutes January 14, 2016

1. The Programs and Services committee convened at 8:31 AM On January 14, 2016 in the W1AW conference room in Newington CT. Directors Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Chair), Doug Rehman K4AC, Tom Abernethy W3TOM, David Norris K5UZ, and Dick Norton N6AA were in attendance. Vice-Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Chief Technical Officer Brennan Price N4QX, and Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND (as recording secretary), were also in attendance.
2. The agenda was agreed to by consensus.
3. On the motion of Mr. Rehman and second of Mr. Norris, the minutes of the December 15, 2015 teleconference were ACCEPTED.
4. Mr. Carlson presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on VHF and Above Contest Revitalization. The PSC discussed the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to eliminate the August UHF contest for 2016 while new options for this event are discussed. PSC Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, joined the meeting at 8:43 AM and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, at 8:45 AM.
5. George Wagner, K5KG, chairman of the CAC, joined the meeting by teleconference at 8:47 AM to discuss the report of the CAC. Vice-Director Art Zygielbaum, KØAIZ joined the meeting at 8:51 AM. There was discussion on revamping the make-up of the CAC as well as pending taskings for their group. Wagner left the meeting at 9:12 AM and the report was ACCEPTED by consensus.
6. Dr. Gary Jones, W5FI, chairman of the DXAC, joined the meeting by teleconference at 9:27 AM to discuss the report of the DXAC. Jones made comments on the concept of a mobile DXCC award. Dr. Jones left the meeting at 9:34 AM and the report was ACCEPTED by consensus.
7. Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, joined the meeting at 9:35 to discuss the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education. He highlighted newly produced "Radio Waves" publication now being produced by the Education Department, and the "graduation" packets that have been developed and downloadable certificates for Volunteer Instructors. The PSC is aware that the Ad Hoc committee is waiting delivery of the Volunteer Instructors database to proceed further with their work. Jay Bellows, KØQB, joined the meeting at 9:51.
8. New Contest Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, joined the meeting at 10:05 and spoke about taking over the Contest Branch at ARRL Headquarters. He left the meeting at 10:15.

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9. Discussion resumed on Mr. Carlson's presentation of the Ad Hoc Committee on VHF and Above Contest Revitalization. On the motion of Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Rehman, it was DECIDED to implement the Ad Hoc committee's recommendation to suspend the August UHF Contest for 2016 while the Ad Hoc Committee continues to consider alternatives for 2017.
10. Mr. Abernethy presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Card Checking Program Modernization. The Committee identified numerous provisions that needed to be reviewed. Weekly webinars have been held and the Ad Hoc Committee will be bringing forth recommendations to the PSC in the near future.
11. Mr. Milesosky briefly gave an update of the status of pending taskings to the DXAC and the CAC.
12. Mr. Imlay opened a discussion of problems with the incoming QSL bureau and the methods of oversight for the manner in which incoming bureaus manage/handle money on hand. Robert Famiglio, K3RF joined the meeting at 10:36 AM.
13. Dr. Woolweaver opened a discussion of the need for a Section Manager Orientation curriculum that contains a minimal set of topic areas relevant to the duties and execution of the Section Manager role. Rick Roderick, K5UR, joined the meeting at 11:27 AM. The PSC will ask staff to develop a baseline curriculum outline, if one does not exist now, and review at PSC's July meeting. Feedback and ideas will be fed back to staff as needed.
14. The committee was on break from 11:36 AM until 12:06 PM.
15. The PSC next took up nominees for various awards. After discussion and on the motion of Mr. Abernethy seconded by Mr. Norton, it was decided to recommend Joseph "Al" A. Nollmeyer, W3YVQ for the George Hard Distinguished Service Award.
16. The PSC next considered for nominees for the 2015 ARRL Humanitarian Award. On the motion of Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, it was decided to recommend Antonio Gonzales, EA5RM, for the award.
17. Discussion moved to consideration of the the Bill Leonard W2SKE, Professional Media Awards. On the motion of Mr. Rehman, seconded by Mr. Zygielbaum the PSC recommended Jackie Lucas for the Bill Leonard W2SKE, Professional Media Award and Don Keith for the Print Media Award. There were no nominees for the Audio category for this award.
18. The committee next moved to consideration of old business. By consensus, the PSC approved the wording for the tasking to the CAC on "Youth in Contesting".
19. Mr. Milesosky appointed Mr. Norris and Mr. Rehman to review the Advisory Committee Members Handbook and identify any necessary changes or revisions.

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20. Discussion next moved to the NTS ICS-213 implementation and NTS Manual rewrite. After reviewing the written update from Steve Phillips K6JT, the PSC complimented the NTS leadership on the work product provided to the PSC. On the motion of Mr. Zygielbaum moved, seconded by Mr. Abernethy, the PSC commended the NTS management for their updated reports.
21. The PSC next moved to discussion of the status of ongoing projects. The National Parks on the Air project has gotten off to a strong start, with over one-quarter of all units already having been activated since the first of the year. The Social Media and Safety Officer bonuses for Field Day are on track.
22. A written status report was previously distributed to the PSC on the status of:
 - a. Implementation of public contest logs
 - b. Design and implementation of the Volunteer Instructor database
 - c. Design and implementation of web based reporting to gather information on field volunteer activities
 - d. Electronic Administration of ARRL VE exams
 - e. Possible new combined 6/10 meter contest
 - f. Return of the “Midnight Special” operating event
23. Mike Corey, KI1U, joined the meeting at 1:07 PM to discuss various ARES issues, in particularly focusing on the lack of monthly reporting by many sections. Of concern is the fact that ARES in 38 sections made no report to ARRL HQ during the last calendar year. Corey left the meeting at 1:33 PM.
24. There being no further business, on the motion of Mr. Abernethy, seconded by Mr. Zygielbaum the committee adjourned at 1:43 PM.